





A Cycle of Increasing Resiliency



Young people are empowered.



They positively influence their peer groups.

All of these catalysts are fostered as a network of progress so that individuals and communities are better equipped to counter violent extremism and combat instability.



Tomorrow's leaders are formed.



They organize to improve their communities.



Communities become engaged.



Local democracy is strengthened.



Moderate leaders reach out.



Three integrated, mutually-reinforcing objectives sought to strengthen resilience to violent extremism in 45 communities in the Sahel.



1. EMPOWER YOUTH

by focusing on leadership, peer-to-peer civic education, and vocational and entrepreneurial skills and livelihood.



2. AMPLIFY MODERATE VOICES

by improving access to information and connecting moderate community and religious leaders with their constituents through radio, social media, and community events.



3. STRENGTHEN LOCAL DEMOCRACY

by building the capacity of civil society and local governments to communicate with their constituents, understand citizen needs, and deliver public services.

Three Countries

THE SAHEL



BURKINA FASO

18,783,000 population

Attempted coup in 2015

66% under age 25

NIGER

20,897,000 population

76% live on under \$2 a day

68% under age 25

CHAD

14,826,000 population

Ranked 186 out of 188 in UNDP *Human Development Report 2016*

69% under age 25







3 APPROACHES



1. SUPPORTING YOUTH LEADERS

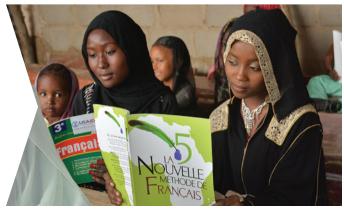
PDev II-trained youth leaders engaged their peers to elevate the positive role youth can play in communities. Youth organized activities included mobile cinema showings and participatory theater performances that encouraged interactive and inclusive discussions on topics ranging from the importance of focusing in school and working hard, to herder and pastoralist conflicts and how to peacefully mitigate them.

- Nearly 3,500 individuals trained in leadership, participatory theater or multi-media.
- 2,100+ youth-led community events including:
 - » 950+ mobile cinema projections.
 - » 1,200+ participatory theater performances.
- Nearly 110,000 youth participated in community events attended by 245,000+ community members.
- 30 short and medium format films were created by youth.

"It's our role as youth to create a synergy between the different structures so we can create a dynamic emerging country. I am an actor of change in my country."

— Youth Leader Ibrahim Yayé in Niamey, Niger





2. VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Lasting from several weeks to several months, vocational trainings helped at-risk youth build a useful set of skills in fields ranging from tailoring to auto mechanics. In addition, young entrepreneurs were trained to start their own small businesses. Upon completion of the training, youth received a start-up kit to aid them in the pursuit of their craft or business. To build local capacity for further training, PDev II also supported pre-existing vocational training centers.

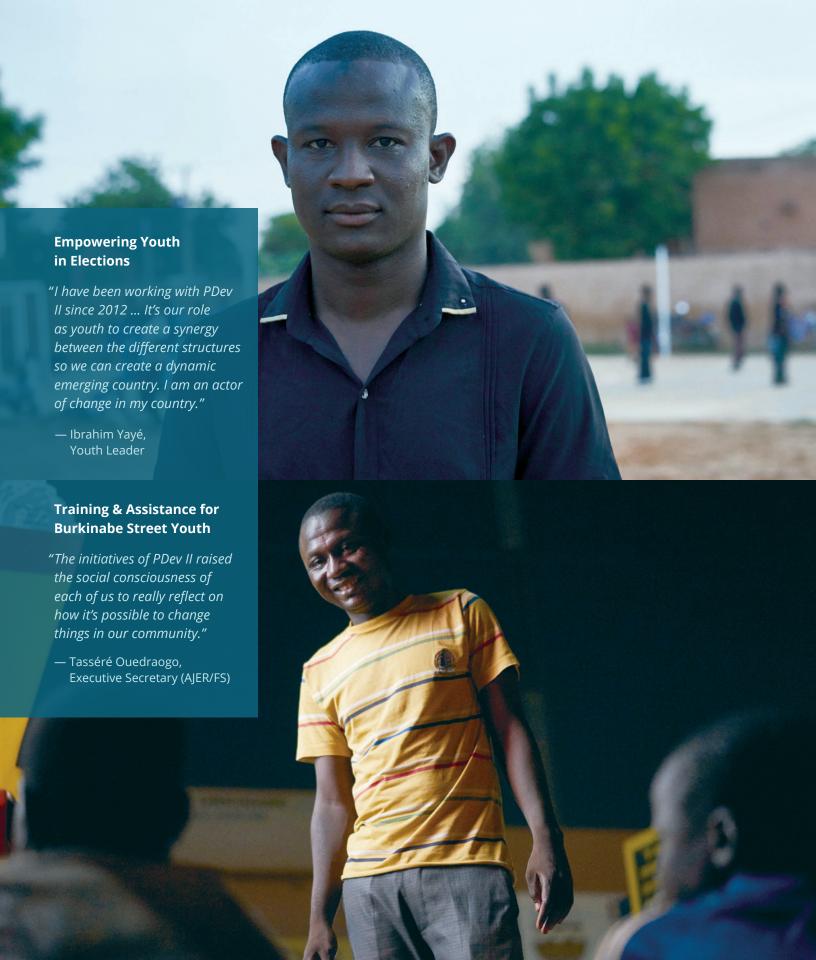
- 2,600+ youth received vocational training and livelihood assistance.
- **\$460,000+** provided to support vocational training at **10** training centers.

3. INCREASED ACCESS TO EDUCATION

By providing learning materials, textbooks and school furniture, and constructing several classrooms, PDev II increased the capacity of secondary schools to accommodate more youth and made staying in school more attractive for youth that attend. Many schools in the program region, particularly in rural areas, lack furniture and supplies, with multiple students sharing one textbook, and several sharing a desk and bench meant for only one. In addition, literacy training sought to reduce the social and economic exclusion of a select group of at-risk adults.

- 150+ formal and non-formal schools supported through provision of \$1.1+ million in supplies, equipment and infrastructure benefiting 105,000+ students in at-risk areas.
- Nearly 30 classrooms constructed in 10 communities.
- 2,030+ adults became functionally literate.



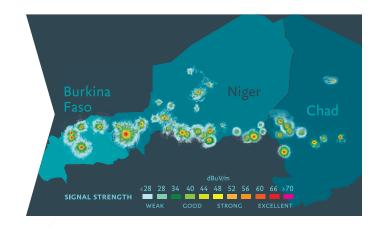








3 APPROACHES



1. STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY RADIO

By supporting a broad network of partner radio stations and producing dynamic, in-demand content, PDev II reached millions of listeners across the Sahel on a weekly basis. Radio programs touched on topics both directly and indirectly related to violent extremism, such as the role of women in combating VE, techniques youth can use to gain employment, or the dangers of illegal gold mining. Through interactive features such as call-in shows, SMS feedback, listening clubs and a sophisticated interactive voice recognition (IVR) system, PDev II generated positive conversations across communities. To help stations in these endeavors, PDev II supplied production and broadcasting equipment, as well as training in production techniques, equipment repair and maintenance and professional ethics.

- **1,000+** episodes of good governance and youth radio programs produced and broadcast across **70+** partner radio stations in **8** languages.
- PDev II engaged with radio listeners through:
 - » **70,000+** call-ins to radio stations and the IVR system.
 - » **12,000+** text messages to radio stations and the IVR system.
 - » 14,000+ conversations with community reporters.
- 50+ radio stations supported to improve capacity and sustainability including \$690,000+ in equipment provided to radio stations and 850+ station staff trained in content production and station management.
- 5 new 30m towers and 2 new offices constructed to launch
 5 new radio stations.
- 3.5+ million regular listeners on a weekly basis.
- **40%+** of listeners regularly discussed radio program topics with friends or family members.

"Today our producers feel a lot more comfortable producing good quality programs because they have the equipment to do so. Our journalists and presenters speak with ease because they have been trained to provide credible, quality information to our listenership. Our radio stations broadcast their programs that have quality sound to them because you [PDev II] supported us with transmitters. Finally, we have a dedicated audience that listen to us regularly and send us their suggestions regarding the topics they'd like to hear more on, specifically on subjects relating to peace and countering violent extremism."

— Roger Sawadogo, Director Radio Voix du Soum





2. ENGAGING RELIGIOUS & TRADITIONAL LEADERS

In a region where religious and cultural traditions hold enormous sway, PDev II has strengthened the mediation and communication skills of a regional cadre of moderate customary leaders to reduce conflict at the community level and promote peace and tolerance in the public discourse. Integrating trained leaders into other activities and communications efforts amplified their voices and built their confidence in being thought leaders. PDev II also supported inter-faith and intra-faith engagements to promote tolerance and reduce community divisions that could be exploited by extremist groups.

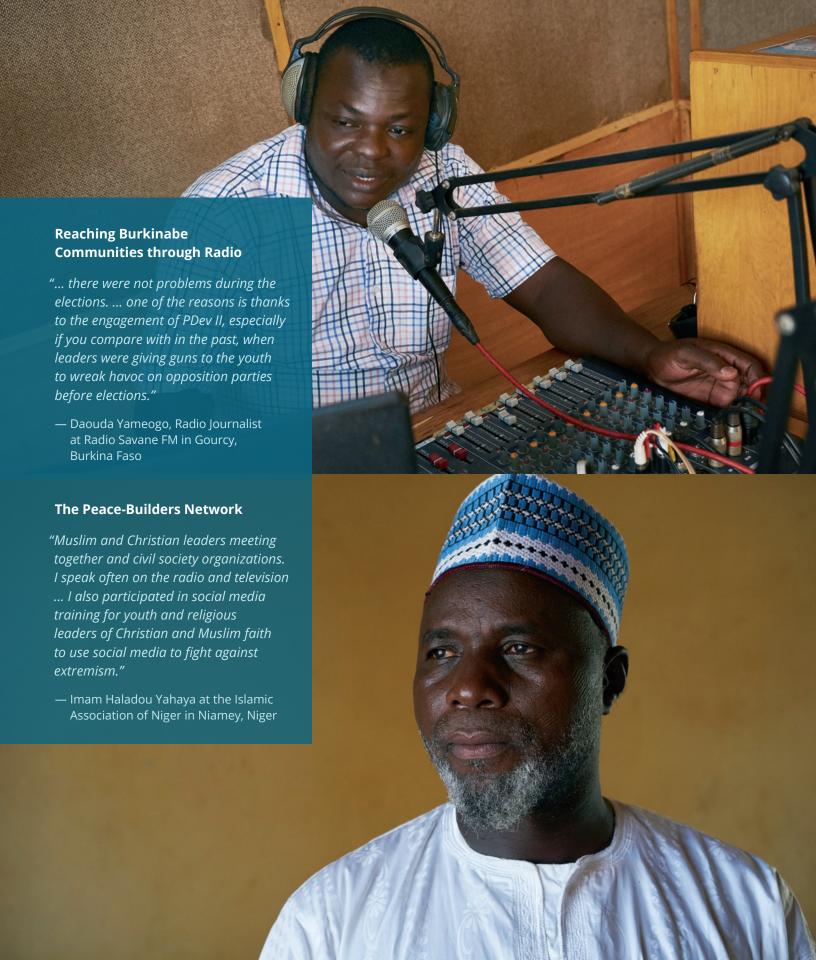
- **2,400+** moderate religious and traditional leaders trained in conflict management and moderate messaging.
- **20+** public information campaigns on CVE-related issues featuring moderate leaders supported.
- Nearly 80 inter-faith and intra-faith activities supported.

3. PILOTING SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGING

Interaction with platforms such as Twitter, Facebook and WhatsApp are rapidly becoming more common in the Sahel. PDev II's social media initiative was a three-month pilot in Niger aimed at creating a virtual community of empowered, moderate voices. Through the creation and promotion of positive conversations surrounding countering violent extremism, social media proved to be an effective and sustainable means of reaching large audiences.

- 116,984 people engaged in moderate messaging on Facebook.
- 978,000+ user accounts reached through social media.
- 26,000+ individual accounts actively engaged through Facebook.
- Messaging reached over 90% of the pilot's target audience (persons aged 16-36 in Niger).



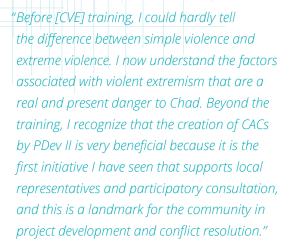








3 APPROACHES



— Abakar Ali Kali, CAC President of the Chaddra CAC, Chad



1. SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY

After a participatory assessment of their strengths and weaknesses, Civil Society Organizations (CSO) received training to help build their capacity to plan and manage projects and to be a positive force in their communities. With PDev II's support, youth groups, women's associations, community development initiatives—all manner of local organizations—successfully managed projects that addressed community challenges, from land tenure disputes to youth unemployment to political party conflict around elections.

- Provided training for **1,000+** staff representing **90+** local Civil Society Organizations.
- 75 small grants totaling \$430,000+ provided to CSOs to fund local activities.
- Nearly 100 youth-led activities related to peaceful elections.





2. COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEES (CACs)

To improve communication and collaboration between government and the community, PDev II helped to establish CACs. Consisting of representatives from various sectors of society such as youth, women, religious leaders, businessmen, etc., CACs serve as liaisons between communities and local government, improving dialogue and ensuring community concerns are raised.

- Nearly 90 CACs established and functioning.
- 400+ CAC members trained in advocacy, participatory governance and conflict resolution, among other things.

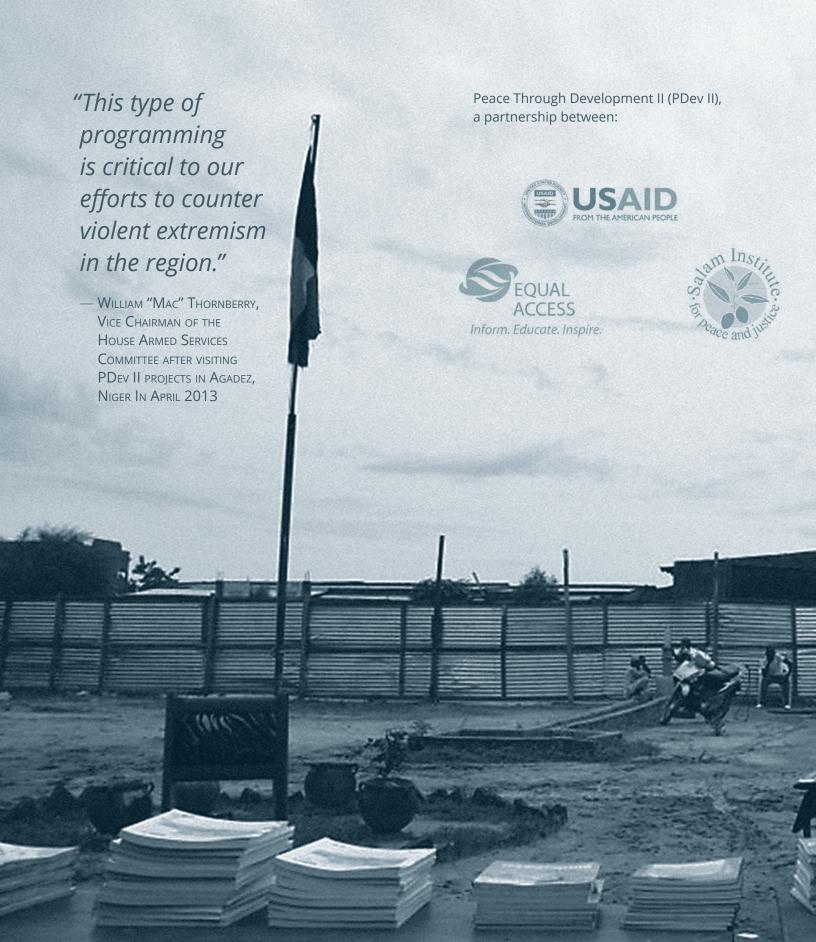
3. PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

PDev II worked with municipal government to identify best practices in local governance adapted to the Sahel. Through training of government officials, experience-sharing workshops, and municipal staff exchange programs, PDev II supported local governments to implement a number of important practices, such as participatory municipal budget development, interactive radio debates, town hall meetings, sharing of annual municipal activity reports with citizens, best practice competitions among municipalities, and recording and broadcasting municipal council working sessions. Lastly, PDev II supported community development projects that addressed expressed community needs in at-risk communities.

- 30+ best practices in local governance identified.
- 17 municipalities implementing identified best practices.
- 260+ community events held to discuss local governance issues.
- Nearly 70 community development projects completed.
- **1,600+** government officials trained on best practices in participatory, accountable and transparent local governance.







For more information, visit pdev2-blumont.org







